Holding of SO 'grade' exam

504. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group-B Assistants of Central Secretariat Services are being deprived of promotion to Section Officer Grade by way of not holding the Section Officer Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps being taken to hold this and onward Examinations;

(c) whether there is any stay order by any court of law on holding the Examination, 2006; and

(d) if not, then by when it is going to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The matter relating to eligibility of Stenographers of the Central Secretariat Stenographers Service (CSSS) to appear for the Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE), 2005 at the Section Officers' Grade of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) is subjudice at present. Accordingly, it has been decided not to participate in the LDCE 2006 till the matter is finally settled.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Regulation 4 under the CSS Rules 1962, which provides for the Stenographers Grade 'C' of the Central Secretariat Stenographers Service (CSSS) to be eligible for the said examination, was quashed by the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Principal Bench, New Delhi on 25.5.2007. The same has been challenged in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, by the Association of the CSSS, and the matter is presently subjudice. Holding the LDCE for 2006 and beyond, would add to further litigation, if examinations are held without settling the basic issue.

Poverty scenario

505. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NSS 61st Round Survey (2004-05) has revealed 29.13 per cent Rural Population, 7.13 per cent Urban Population, constituting 25 crore persons were subsisting on less than Rs. 12 per day, 9.9 per cent Rural Population, 4 per cent Urban Population, constituting 9 crore persons, were surviving on less than Rs. 9 per day, per capita consumption expenditure of 60.5 per cent of the population was less than Rs. 20 per day constituting 66.2 crore persons and population below International Poverty line was 34.3 per cent in India, 5.6 per cent in Sri Lanka, 9.9 per cent in China, 17.0 per cent in Pakistan; and

(b) does the above not reveal a horrendous poverty scenario in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Based on information available in the report no. 508 (61/1.0/1), "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-2005", of NSS 61st Round (July 2004 - June 2005) brought out by

the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, it is estimated that the per capita consumption of 29.13 per cent of rural population and 7.13 per cent of urban population, together constituting 25 crore persons was less than Rs. 12 per day (Rs. 360 per month) in 2004-05. The per capita constituting 9 crore persons was less than Rs. 9 per day (Rs. 270 per month) in 2004-05. Based on the same source, the per capita consumption expenditure of 60.5 per cent of population, constituting 66.2 crore persons, was less than Rs. 20 per day (Rs. 600 per month) in 2004-05. As per the World Development Indicators 2007, prepared by the World Bank, the population below International poverty line of $1 a day was 33.5 per cent in India, 5.6 per cent in Sri Lanka, 9.9 per cent in China, 17.0 per cent in Pakistan.

(b) As per the latest estimates made by the Planning Commission, 27.5% of the population of the country lived below the poverty line in 2004-05. The Eleventh Plan has set reduction in the head-count ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points, during the Eleventh Plan.

Investment in States

†506. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the capital is being invested by the Central Government in the various States of the country for their development;

(b) if so, the total capital investment by the Central Government in each State of the country in 2003 alongwith the total capital invested in 2008; and

(c) the details of norms identified for capital investment by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) TO (c) The size of the Annual Plan of States which basically consist of States own resources and Central assistance is decided by the Planning Commission after detailed discussions with the State Governments and assessment of resource availability. Normal Central Assistance for the Annual Plans of the States is allocated on the basis of Gadgil Mukherjee formula. Under the formula 30% of the total Plan outlay is provided as grants and 70% as Loan to the Non-Special category States. To the Special Category States, 90% of the Plan Outlay is provided as grants and 10% as a loan. Based on the recommendation of the Twelfth Finance Commission, as accepted by Government of India with effect from 2005-06, only the grant component of NCA is being provided to States. The information for allocation of plan outlay to the States from 2003-04 onwards (year wise and state-wise) is given in the Statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.